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Changes.

The selection of Col. JOHN HAY to be Secretary of State is likely to please everybody except the Hon. WHITEHALL REID. The Hon. WHITEHALL REID will pretend to be satisfied, but the disappointment is bitter, and envy will go gnawing all around the place in him where a heart ought to be.

For the third time within eighteen months President McKinley has been required by circumstances to choose a fit person to fill the principal office in his Cabinet. For the third time the President has made his choice, and for the third time there is seen in the background the grumpy and yellowish form of the Hon. WHITEHALL REID's only candidate for the long coveted prize, an usual, sinking wave.

The escape of the country from the first-class infection which the Hon. WHITEHALL REID had privately and elaborately designed for it might well be purchased at some sacrifice of lesser considerations. The end of the war has terminated the heaviest of the responsibilities which Ambassador HAY so worthily sustained at London. Nevertheless, it would be highly unfortunate if on account of supposed political necessities in this State, or through kindness of heart or mere weariness of soul on the part of President McKinley, this Administration and this country should come to be represented at the Court of St. James's by a person who can never be quite at ease in the presence of any honest, straightforward, and straight-spoken English or American gentleman.

The Porte's Reply.

It appears that the answer recently made by the Ottoman Government to our demand, presented through Minister ANGELL, for indemnifying American missionaries for losses sustained in Armenia, amounted to a repudiation of all responsibility for those losses. It is explained that there is no intention to discriminate against the United States, as the Porte has also repudiated responsibility under like claims of the European powers.

We do not think that this answer will stand as the final settlement of this affair. Our citizens suffered losses capable of pecuniary reparation, and suffered them in a country over which Turkey claims sovereignty. Even on her plain that they would not institute the outrages which they would at least consider the head of mob violence. For such outrages we have repeatedly exacted reparation from China and in turn have accorded it not only to that country but to Italy. There have been instances, it is true, in which the legal claim to indemnity for mob violence has not been conceded, and in which Congress has been called upon for an appropriation to the injured as a benevolent and just act. Possibly Turkey is now standing on this ground of disputed liability. But we hold that her officers were implicated, although we are not concerned in discussing the legal point, provided Turkey conforms to the custom of enlightened nations. We only ask her to do for our injured citizens what we should do for hers, were the circumstances reversed.

When this question of indemnity originally came up, and the Porte seemed inclined to evade responsibility, or, at any rate, to postpone a settlement, our naval authorities promptly faced the possibility of being called upon to effect a settlement by force. We believe it is not too much to say that they thought over what would be required for this purpose, and fixed upon Smyrna as the port which could best be threatened by a fleet of battleships and cruisers. But there were several reasons at that time for not sending an ultimatum to the Porte. Turkey was then engaged in a conflict with the European powers threatening her very existence, while our claim was of minor importance, so that it could hardly be urged to extremity. Again, we were still involved in the Venezuelan dispute with England, and had also the Cuban problem to take care of, which has since resulted in war. It was unwise to risk our ships bottled up in the Mediterranean at that time. Finally, Mr. CLEVELAND set forth to Congress what seemed to be a friendly attitude of the Porte toward our Government and people, and it was thought that after a time the resources of diplomacy would be adequate for procuring indemnity for our citizens.

It appears, however, that in this we are disappointed. But our Government has given very decided ground that indemnity is due, so that it is not likely to be satisfied with the Porte's repudiation of responsibility. It would be odd if an American armored squadron should have to go to the Mediterranean after all.

The Language Ordinance in Bohemia.

If the report from Vienna that the Emperor FRANCIS JOSEPH has been induced by his Austrian and Hungarian advisers to consent to the withdrawal of the language ordinance in Bohemia is correct, as it probably is, the German minority has achieved a notable triumph for the time being. In return, the compact for fiscal and military purposes that has hitherto subsisted between Austria and Hungary will be renewed, and the separation of the two countries will be deferred for the present. The general result is undoubtedly a strengthening of German influence in Austria, and at the same time a removal of a possible danger to European peace at a critical moment.

Among the causes that have contributed to the modification of the situation in Austria-Hungary may be reckoned the recent visit of Prince FERDINAND of Bulgaria to St. Petersburg, followed closely by that of King CHARLES of Roumania, and the resumption of Russian diplomatic activity at Belgrade, the Serbian capital, where it had been comparatively inert for some time previous. These circumstances, but particularly the visit of the Roumanian sovereign to the Czar, must have created a very considerable impression at Vienna and Budapest, where their significance would be fully appreciated. The reconciliation between Russia and Bulgaria

was necessarily distasteful to Budapest, for between Budapest and Sofia, the Bulgarian capital, there has been little love lost, but it has always been looked on as likely. The possibility, however, of close relations between Russia and Roumania was calculated to inspire alarm, on account of the military convention between Austria and Roumania and the existence of three and a half millions of discontented Roumanians in Transylvania and the Banat.

A continuance of the discord between Austria and Hungary, with the chances of an ultimate separation, would amount to a nullification of the Austro-Roumanian convention, and justify Roumania in protecting itself by a friendly understanding with Russia before it might be too late. The anxiety of the Hungarians to terminate the conflict can therefore be understood, and the willingness of Count GOLOVINSKI to have the language ordinance withdrawn to avoid a precipitation of the crisis for which the Austrian and Hungarian Slavs are not yet ready, is also comprehensible.

At the same time a radical solution of the difficulties between the two countries appears to be as far off as ever, owing to the incompatibility of temper of the ill-assorted partners, and the apparent impossibility of assimilation of the diverse elements composing their populations.

The Cubans and the Armistice.

With the agreement of Spain to evacuate Cuba the war is over for the insurgents as well as for ourselves, and the promptness with which they recognized this fact by orders suspending hostilities affords good ground for believing that they will also heartily concur in our Government's plan for determining the future of the island.

Gen. GOMEZ has for a long time withdrawn from military operations of consequence in central Cuba, waiting for the end of the struggle carried on by our forces, which could only result, as it already has resulted, in Spain's giving up all claim to sovereignty over the island. In the east Gen. GARCIA, as is well known, cooperated with us in the Santiago campaign, and afterward attacked the Spaniards independently. It has been suggested that the results of these latter operations, in securing the possession of places like Gibara, might complicate the settlement of the Cuban problem. But a moment's reflection will show that through a large part of eastern Cuba the insurgents have practically held sway for a long time, so that their recent successes have in no way altered the political situation. Gen. GARCIA will recognize that military operations against Spain are ended.

The settlement of the political future of Cuba may require protracted consideration, and our troops may have to remain there a long time, but the patriots who fought bravely for three years in the field will, we think, be found in substantial accord with our programme.

Mosquitoes as Agents of Infection.

A few days ago, in discussing the relation of mosquitoes to malaria, we pointed out that mosquitoes are common in many parts of the world where malaria disease is unknown, and hence suggested that, while these insects might be agents in transmitting the germs of malaria from the earth or water into the human system, it was hardly likely that the distinctive parasites which give rise to malaria fever originate in the mosquito.

On Sunday last we printed a letter from a Florida correspondent in support of this view, arguing that mosquitoes might carry malaria or yellow fever, but that it was absurd to suppose they produced either malady.

Since receiving this communication we have seen a very interesting paper in a recent number of the *Lancet* by Dr. WILLIAM FORBES-LESLIE of Aberdeen on malarial fever, its pathology and treatment, which contains many suggestions that are particularly pertinent for consideration in America at the present time, when so many of our soldiers are suffering from the malaria of the tropics.

The author avows his belief that the true germ of malaria has not yet been discovered and will not be found until higher powers of the microscope are contrived. This opinion is opposed to the conclusions of many distinguished investigators, beginning with LAYBURN in 1884 and coming down to KOCH at the present day, who are satisfied that the cause of malarial fever is the presence in the blood of a characteristic parasite belonging to the group of organisms known as protozoa. They cut into the red blood discs, and live on them, so to speak, until nothing remains but a bit of black pigment. Dr. E. KLEIN, of R. S., writing in *Nature* on Prof. KOCH's latest theories, terms this parasite the plasmodium of malaria. There appear to be different types of this corpuscular body which produce different types of fever. Dr. FORBES-LESLIE, however, thinks that the forms of malarial disease are too varied to be ascribed to the action of one organism. "My experience in Africa alone," he says, "has taught me that the fever of no district resembles another, but they differ in some instances as widely as typhoid fever from cholera."

While considering the agency of mosquitoes in transmitting malaria from the marshes into man, Dr. FORBES-LESLIE thinks that the most dangerous cases result from the introduction of the poison into the system by means of drinking water. The importance of boiling water for use in malarial districts is obvious. As to the mosquito theory, he has this to say:

"The mosquito may in many cases become an accidental medium, but in that it is a necessary intermediary is not borne out by facts. It is highly probable that mosquitoes absorb the malarial germ during their aquatic life, and that it is possible to introduce such into the human blood, but whether the organism so introduced can set up the disease in healthy blood is not proved. It is not certain that infected blood from one person can produce the disease in another. If it is, as Dr. MASON has pointed out, the mosquito must necessarily break that cycle, because it is not only necessary for the organism to change as the development proceeds, but a change must take place in the blood to fulfil a further development in the organism. Further, to look at it practically, how can Dr. MASON explain the reason why persons are attacked at sea by fever who have never been bitten by mosquitoes and who have never been before to a tropical country? I have seen hundreds of such cases. How is it that all the passengers on that side of the vessel who have been bitten by mosquitoes and the remainder on the other side escape? Surely it is not possible to believe that only those were bitten by mosquitoes and the rest were not. Is it not more conceivable and in line with the diffusion of malarial disease that the blowing of the coast carried the poison against the side of the vessel and that it was inhaled by the passengers whose cabin windows were open, but following a law of diffusion which prevents its rising perpendicularly, was repelled by the side of the ship and obliged to scatter horizontally?"

As to the treatment of tropical malaria, while all authorities appear to agree that quinine is most valuable, they generally concur in the opinion that it is far more useful in some forms and stages of the disease than in others. Dr. FORBES-LESLIE asserts that in the malarial types it is positively pernicious. "The great Dr. L. V. MONTAGNA," he writes, "demonstrates the true treatment of malaria, than any other observer. He discovered that a combination of jalap and calomel had the effect of cutting short or preventing an attack. He had it made up into pills, which his followers called 'Livingstone's pills,' duly appreciating their drastic purgation." They dealt effectively with the malarial attacks, but even Dr. LIVINGSTONE himself was unable to explain why.

So far as African malaria is concerned, it would seem that many convalescents are killed by undertaking a sea voyage too soon. We quote once more:

"Another point which is not generally known is that a sea voyage is unadvisable unless the patient is fully convalescent. H. H. PRINCE HENRY of Battenberg died at sea; so did Sir WILLIAM MAXWELL. It is a common thing for men to come on board at the end of the fever, and to die of it. The disease is not completely cured, but the patient is completely exhausted by the terrible black-water fever after being a few hours at sea. What the cause is it is difficult to say. Possibly the motion of the vessel acting through the nerves centers on the vasomotor nerves of the liver may disturb its digestive functions, or a chill may be the cause, or it may be in the atmosphere itself. Whatever it may be, it is a law of malaria which it will be well to bear in mind when advising a patient to take the voyage to Europe. It is too frequently the voyage from which none return."

We believe this has not been the experience, to anything like the same extent, of patients returning North from the West Indies.

Democratic Seedmen.

We learn from the news columns of the *Washington Post* that the Democratic Congressional Committee, "with headquarters in Thirteenth street," is using its headquarters actively and with great expenditure of thought, for the dissemination of Democratic literature and the discomfiture of the Republicans. The Hon. JAMES KERR, Secretary, has compiled a handbook or speechbook for candidates for Congress, and has asked them what sort of political foe their districts are crying for. It appears from the answers that "there is almost a universal purpose of the Democratic candidates, as far as has been learned, to wage a campaign of criticism against the war revenue law, as bearing more heavily upon the poor than upon the rich, and against the issue of bonds." Presumably the poor object to having to put stamps on their checks and want Government bonds that will give them more interest on their money. For real and honest issues the Democrats have a genius.

"While it is plain," continues our historian, "that the doom of the free silver issue is already sounded, there is nevertheless a very general opinion among Democratic nominees that it is worth preaching to some extent in their districts." A hopeful way of beginning a campaign. Free silver is a dead duck, but, say the nominees, "let's play it isn't." A wise and ripe plan, and sure to be rewarded with all the success that it deserves!

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It is significant that some of the former advocates of the forward policy are now suggesting that the British troops should be withdrawn from the frontier. The opinion prevails in India that the Government has no choice between a renewal of the forward movement and a radical change of its recent policy toward the frontier tribes, the results of which have been so unsatisfactory and so costly to the Indian treasury.

In connection with the reopening of the Khyber Field Force, it is interesting to note that the Khyber Field Force, which is to be maintained at full war strength. The command of it is invested in the hands of a military authority. The force is equipped in all respects as for war service and taken the field in readiness for their action against the frontier tribes. The general impression is that it is really the advance guard of an army intended to enter Afghanistan in case of war.

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Yet these half-way expansionists want the United States to build the Nicaragua canal. For what? Just for the coasting trade and for the benefit of foreign nations carrying the vast commerce which this country will not get unless it occupies the Philippines and secures a strong foothold in the East.

The Nicaragua canal is not to be a mere passageway to the Pacific coast, but a thoroughfare between the Atlantic and the Pacific, a section of the road to the Philippines and China. A great navy will be needed to defend that road. Unless a great commerce is to arise, the passageway is not worth building, and the great navy will not make us a great sea power.

The Nicaragua canal leads to Manila and beyond.

If you have not already imagined a sufficiently horrible fate for your worst enemy, wish that he might be doomed to run against JOX WICKLER for Congress in the Eighth district of Alabama.

ON THE BRITISH INDIAN FRONTIER.

The Expected Trouble Has Begun—The Chitral Garrison—The Khyber Field Force.